



# info·bits

City of Torrance

winter/spring 2014

## Info-Bits 10th Anniversary

*We celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Info-Bits with a pictorial review of City events and services and the employees, past and present that made it all happen.*



*City Yard Open House • Service Awards • Variety Show*



*Benefits & Rideshare Fair • What Do You Do? • Angel Tree*



Continued on page 2



In 2005, Joyce Chan had just begun running the Atwater Village Farmers' Market when she attended a regional Farmers' Market Managers Meeting in Torrance where she met the late Mary Lou Weiss. Weiss managed the Torrance market for over 20 years and was the 'go to' person for the State of California's Department of Agriculture on the subject of Farmers' Markets. Chan credits Weiss for mentoring her and being a role model. "We hung out at different conferences, I wanted to absorb her knowledge," said Chan, "She was so honest and a straight shooter, I wanted to be similar to her. I think about her a lot." In August of 2013, Chan was hired to replace Weiss who had passed away unexpectedly earlier in the year.

The single mother of a 15 year-old daughter commutes from her home in Silver Lake to run the Torrance Farmers' Market and manage 250 Community Garden plots at Lago Seco and Columbia Parks. Her work days start early which helps shorten her drive time. "It's a busy job and on market days, it's very important for me to be out there, accessible to the farmers, volunteers and community," she said. Non-market days, Chan can be found in her office at the Dee Hardison Sports Center keeping up with Los Angeles County Health Department codes, agriculture direct marketing rules, obtaining new farmers and vendors for the market, working with the markets' assistant managers and Community Gardens staff, and going to Department meetings.

## We Welcome

*Farmers' Market Manager  
Community Services*



"We have a two year waiting list for the Community Garden plots," she said.

The twenty foot square plots are renewable every two years and are worked mostly by retired people who grow a wide variety of produce. "People like to grow the food they ate as children, bitter melon, chayote, hot peppers; we encourage people to try anything as long as it doesn't get too tall or have thorns." Senior Recreation Leader, Brandon Purvis, visits each garden once a week to chat with the gardeners and do some cleaning and weeding. Chan says she'd like to institute a regular informal meeting with the plot holders to get feedback and just stay in touch.

Since she first stepped into the shoes of her mentor, Chan's goals have been to get a complete understanding of the complexities of the Tuesday and Saturday Farmers' Market, held at Wilson Park. "I want to keep everything running smoothly and if changes seem to be in order, to implement them very slowly in concert with all the entities concerned. I honestly believe the Farmers' Market makes the community healthier and I have felt very welcomed here."



## 10th Anniversary Scrapbook

*Inside the Reservoir • Transit's New Look  
Hybrid Buses • Library Upgrades*



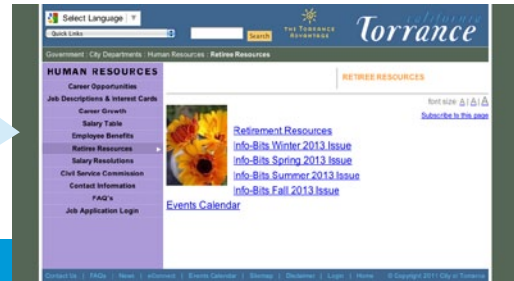
Continued on page 5

## You can “Subscribe” to info•bits online!

Here's how...

An electronic service, eNotify allows anyone to receive updates on certain web pages. You can subscribe to Info-Bits and other city information updates by registering online at <http://www.torranceca.gov/20726.htm>. Once you have registered, you can choose from a menu of update notifications for various city web pages, including Info-Bits. Check the boxes to choose the information you would like to monitor and you will be e-mailed when the web pages are updated. Here is the process to sign up:

- Log in
- Click e-notify
- Click webpage subscription
- Under Human Resources is Retiree Resources
- Check Retiree Resources box
- Click Save on bottom of page
- A message on top of page will say “Database updated successfully”
- Exit or log out



To view current Info-Bits and archives go to:  
<http://www.torranceca.gov/16042.htm>

## Moments in Torrance History

*Where did the name come from?*

*Guenser Park*

By Michael George

Some Torrance parks have been developed out of rather unusual sites; Seaside Heroes Park was an unused road right of way, Columbia Park a radio station, and Wilson Park a former military depot. But even considering the variety of such unlikely sites, Guenser Park, located at 178th Street and Gramercy Place, is unique.

Henry Guenser was a brick maker. Operating in what then was known as “The McDonald Track” (AKA North Torrance), Mr. Guenser excavated the rich clay on several lots to make his bricks. This was a respectable practice in pre-developed Torrance. However, as industry, cows and oil left the city and homes and schools moved in, the open brick pit was judged to be a negative for property values. Guenser made a deal with the City; let him dig just a little deeper and when the excavation was complete, he would deed the land to the City as a park. The City jumped at the chance to acquire free acreage and found a creative way to fill in the excavation by using it as a temporary City dump.

Three acres of what was to become Guenser Park was deeded to the City in 1956. Two years later, a group of baseball dads leased the park to construct a playing field. The dads put in six thousand hours of work to “convert an eye-sore into an outstanding baseball playing field,” according to the Torrance Press.



Guenser Park was officially dedicated in 1963, the culmination of planning input from the Guenser Park Homeowners Association and contributions of landscaping, play equipment and other improvements donated by civic groups and associations. Today, the park also has a basketball court, baseball backstop, softball diamond, horseshoe court, picnic area and a .3 mile jogging trail. Guenser Park can be considered one of the most successful private/public projects in the city.



## Off the Clock

Allan Stansbury  
IT Specialist  
CIT

It has been 37 years since Allan Stansbury shot twelve rolls of 110 film in Yosemite while vacationing with his then, girlfriend, Carol. That was the beginning of two love affairs; one with Carol now, his wife of 33 years and the other with photography. "Carol gave me my first 35mm camera while we were dating."

There are dozens of albums at the Stansbury home full of nature shots, the kids, family events and vacations. Over the years, Allan has upgraded his camera kit to include lenses, flash equipment and, eventually, digital. "Digital gives me a lot more control of the final photo," explains Allan. "I can crop, change the lighting, alter colors and so on." Bringing a bit of his career experience home, Allan also upgraded his computer's video card and invested in a larger monitor; more pixels provide crisper images.

Now that their kids are grown, Carol and Allan have time to travel up the coast to Big Sur, a favorite area to hike and take pictures. "Carol will sometimes point out a nice composition and I'll shoot it," says Allan. He also finds plenty of natural beauty to shoot right here in the South Bay, most recently at Madrona Marsh, where his photographs of marsh wildlife will be on display from February 25 through April 4. Included in the collection is a piece that was also chosen for exhibition at the annual South Bay Focus exhibit at the Torrance Art Museum.

In fact, Allan's pictures have been exhibited at the Armstrong Theater, the City Clerk's Office, the Katy Geissert Library, published in several issues of the South Coast Botanic Gardens newsletter and have been chosen to be displayed in the San Pedro Visitor's Center. He continues to attend classes in photography and hopes to one day acquire the kind of lenses that will enable him to take photos of the dolphins and the occasional whale that he sees on his walks along the ocean.

"It's a nice change from working in the basement forty hours a week," says Stansbury. "I love capturing a moment, having time to savor the experience and share it with other people." Some of his best work is posted on his website, [www.allanstansburyphotography.com](http://www.allanstansburyphotography.com).



Natures Art, photographs by Allan Stansbury, on exhibit at the Madrona Marsh until April 4, 2014.

### Retirees - October 1, 2013 to January 8, 2014

Name	Title	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Jack van der Linden	Assistant Street Services Director	10/7/2013	20 years
David Bechtel	Sanitation Equipment Operator	11/7/2013	19 years
Timothy Marcy	Fire Captain	12/28/2013	30 years
Barbara Crawford	Typist Clerk	12/8/2013	12 years
Timothy Ford	Storekeeper	12/26/2013	14 years
Keith Fournier	Police Lieutenant	12/28/2013	31 years
George Jax	Fire Fighter	12/16/2013	30 years
Thomas Kelly	Senior Building Inspector	12/16/2013	27 years
Christopher Kozak	Police Sergeant	12/26/2013	25 years
Yvonne Lopez	Maintenance Worker	12/27/2013	26 years
George Martin	Fire Fighter	12/18/2013	34 years
Diana Matovich	Secretary	12/20/2013	26 years
Carol Schroeder	Permit Technician I	12/2/2013	18 years
Cheryl Shafaghat	Secretary	12/17/2013	12 years
Steven Swigart	Fire Fighter	12/22/2013	33 years
Laura Lohnes	Civil Service Manager	11/29/2013	13 years
Lisa Terlazzo	Account Clerk	11/18/2013	24 years
John Ziegler	Custodian	12/26/2013	22 years
Rebecca Tortorice	Senior Administrative Assistant	11/29/2013	28 years

### Promotions - October 1, 2013 to January 8, 2014

<b>City Attorney's Office</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>Senior Business Manager</b>
Deputy City Attorney II	Permit Technician I	Diane Megerdichian
Jocelyn Sarigumba	Jennifer Bautista	Jordan Rumery
<b>City Information Technology</b>	Senior Electrical Inspector	<b>Public Works</b>
Systems Analyst	Robert Golden	Sanitation Equipment Operator
Rahul Simlote	<b>General Services</b>	Albert Olson
	Senior Building Inspector	
	Steve Minor	

### New Hires - October 1, 2013 to January 8, 2014

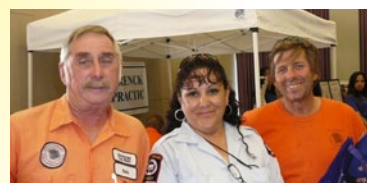
<b>City Attorney's Office</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>Public Safety Dispatcher</b>
Legal Secretary	Animal Control Officer	Lindsay Patton
Jessica Corona	Cody Baumann	<b>Public Works</b>
<b>City Treasurer's Office</b>	Emergency Services Coordinator	Water Service Tech I
Account Clerk	Soraya Sutherlin	Michael Morales
Jeanelle Fraser	Police Records Technician	Joseph Galindo
<b>Finance</b>	Kuresha Mahida	Water Service Tech III
Accountant	Police Services Officer	Landon Mendoza
Michelle Ruan	Brandon Musick	



# 10th Anniversary Scrapbook



*Emergency Preparedness • Replacing the Boom • New Sidewalks  
Special Olympics • Library/TAM Reading Program*



## Torrance Trivia

Fall 2013 Question: Which two Torrance Public Libraries are “twins”?

Answer: In order to save money, the Henderson and Walteria Branch libraries were built on the same plan.

Correct Responders: Liza Vela, Jeannie Fuller, Phil Ross, Chris Gooch, Nancy Stein-Omatsu, Barbara Kass, Erin Aoki, Patrice Deleget, Debbie Reed, Bill Kamimura, Cynthia Aguado, Jay Spradlin, Darlynn Nemitz, Theresa Babiar, Diane Megerdichian, Pam Barton, Craig Buehler, Jeffrey Lambert, Vijay Prasad, Lisa Gutierrez, Frank Mekrut, Cheryl Huddle.

And the winner of the drawing is: Jeffrey Lambert - Contact Myisha Phillips in HR to claim your prize.

### NEW QUESTION

How many City Managers has the City had in its 92 years as an incorporated municipality?

Email your answers to: [JanetStancliff3@gmail.com](mailto:JanetStancliff3@gmail.com)

## Test Your Knowledge of City Policies

Do you know City policy? Test your knowledge!

See if you can match the policy referred to in the column on the left with the policy subject on the right. Email your answers to [JanetStancliff3@gmail.com](mailto:JanetStancliff3@gmail.com). A winner will be selected from a random drawing of all correct answers submitted. The complete policies and other city policies are available on the TEN.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Collect jury duty service fees due to the City from the employee and deposit fees with the City Treasurer.  | a. Key Control-Duplication of Keys              |
| 2. All keys, including access cards for electronic locks and elevators, shall be surrendered to the General Services Department upon termination of employment, or transfer to another department. | b. Gift and Gratuity Policy-Definitions         |
| 3. Personal use of computers should not interfere or conflict with business use or job performance.  | c. CIT Use Policy-Incidental Personal Use       |
| 4. A gift valued at more than \$25 must remain on City premises and should be reported immediately to the department head.   | d. Key Control-Lost Keys                        |
| 5. Keys shall not be loaned to others.   | e. Jury Duty- Finance Department Responsibility |
| 6. Prior to reporting for Jury Duty Service, determine whether or not the scheduled jury service would be detrimental to current work assignments; seek postponement from court.                   | f. Key Control-Return of Keys                   |
| 7. The cost of a replacement key shall be \$10.00 per key.   | g. CIT Use Policy-Passwords                     |
| 8. Computer users may not run or otherwise configure software or hardware to intentionally allow access by unauthorized users.   | h. Gift and Gratuity Policy-Acceptance of Gifts |
| 9. Unauthorized duplication of keys is covered by the California Penal Code.   | i. Jury Duty –Employee Responsibility           |
| 10. Soliciting or accepting “anything of value” can lead to the perception that an employee’s official action or judgment could be influenced.   | j. Key Control –Obtaining keys                  |